

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
(Attorney Docket No. 1829a)

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION MAILED DECEMBER 27, 2006**

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed December 27, 2006, Applicant submits the following amendments and remarks. Amendments to the specification begin on page 2, amendments to the claims begin on page 9, and remarks begin on page 18.